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BOROUGH OF HIGH WYCOMBE



ANNUAL REPORT

on the work of the

Public Health Services
1952

A. J. MUIR, M.B., B.Hy., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health

W. A. SHARP, M.S.I.A.
Chief Sanitary Inspector

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STAFF :

Medical Officer of Health :

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Chief Sanitary Inspector :

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Additional Sanitary Inspectors :

R. F. SHAPTER, M.S.I.A., R.S.I., Meat Certificate.

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(Appointed 2/2/52).

Public Analyst :

ERIC VOELCKER, A.R.C.S., F.I.C.

Senior Clerk :

MR. A. G. HALL.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of High Wycombe

I submit my ninth Annual Report on the High Wycombe Health Services.

During the year 1952, 661 infants were born—an increase of 26 on the number for the previous year. In a population of 41,590 this gives a Birth Rate of 15.89 per thousand.

There were 403 deaths—a reduction of 35 on the number for 1951. 219 deaths were from diseases of the heart and circulatory system, in most cases due to degenerative changes of old age.

Cancer accounted for 80 deaths. The number for the previous year when, however, there were 35 more deaths, was 81.

There were only 6 deaths from tuberculosis. In 1947 there were 22 such deaths and every year since the number has fallen. With this improvement continuing as I hope it will, it may be possible within the next few years for an Annual Report to record that no death has occurred from this disease. Notifications, however, numbered 42—an increase of 12 on the figure for the previous year.

Only 10 infants under the age of one year died during 1952. The mortality rate was 15.3 per 1,000. Only once before was a lower figure recorded—in 1946 when it was 14.99 per 1,000 live births. The figure for 1952 (England and Wales) was 27.6—the lowest rate ever recorded.

No epidemic disease was unduly prevalent there being only 34 notifications of measles and 33 and 6 of scarlet fever and whooping cough respectively.

For the sixth year in succession no confirmed case of diphtheria was notified.

Six cases, five paralytic, of anterior poliomyelitis were confirmed—four of the paralytic cases were children under five years of age ; there was no death.

In the town during 1947–52 inclusive, there have been 27 cases of poliomyelitis notified with only one death.

Poliomyelitis is much feared, probably on account of the crippling disabilities which are often the result of the disease. However, when one considers that during 1948–52 eighteen deaths occurred in the town from road accidents, this will give an indication of the relative unimportance of poliomyelitis as a cause of death. Cases of poliomyelitis are publicised in the Local and National press, whereas road accidents, fatal and otherwise, are commonplace and generally speaking the public are apathetic unless they happen to be intimately concerned with the victim.

In conclusion I thank the Health Committee for their interest and my colleagues and staff for their great help during the year.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

A. J. MUIR,

Medical Officer of Health.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

HEALTH CENTRE,
HIGH WYCOMBE,

July, 1953.

SECTION I

Statistics :

Area	7,091 acres
Population (Registrar General's Estimate)	41,590
Number of dwelling-houses	11,554
Rateable value as at 1/4/52	£358,036
Product of a Penny Rate (Actual 1951/52)	£1,435 9s. 1d.

Rainfall :

Pann Mill, Easton Street	29.37 ins.
Widdenton Park, Lane End	30.44 ins.

Summary of Vital Statistics :

Live Births	Total	M.	F.	
Legitimate	622	307	315	
Illegitimate	39	20	19	
	—	—	—	Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population
Total Births	661	327	334	—15.89
	—	—	—	
Still Births	19	13	6	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births—27.99
Deaths	403	196	207	Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population —9.69

Deaths from Puerperal Causes :

	Deaths	Death Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births
Puerperal Sepsis	Nil	Nil
Other Puerperal Causes	Nil	Nil

Deaths of Infants under One Year of Age :

Total Number of Deaths	10
Death Rate for all infants per 1,000 live births	15.13
Number of legitimate infant deaths	10
Legitimate death rate per 1,000 legitimate live births	16.08
Number of illegitimate infant deaths	Nil
Illegitimate death rate per 1,000 illegitimate live births	Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	80
Measles (all ages)	Nil
Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	Nil

Tuberculosis Death Rate (all cases)	0.15
Total Deaths—Respiratory Tuberculosis	5
Respiratory Tuberculosis Death Rate	0.12
Total Deaths—Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis	1
Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis Death Rate	0.02
Total Deaths—Respiratory (excluding Tuberculosis)	54
Respiratory Death Rate (excluding Tuberculosis)	1.29

CAUSES OF DEATH

		1952		1951	
		M.	F.	M.	F.
1	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	3	2	4	2
2	Other forms of Tuberculosis	1	—	1	—
3	Syphilitic Disease	—	1	—	—
4	Diphtheria	—	—	—	—
5	Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—
6	Meningococcal Infections	—	1	—	—
7	Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—
8	Measles	—	—	—	—
9	Other Infective and parasitic diseases	2	1	—	1
10	Malignant Neoplasm, stomach	8	4	9	7
11	Malignant Neoplasm, lung, bronchus	10	2	8	2
12	Malignant Neoplasm, breast	—	8	—	9
13	Malignant Neoplasm, uterus	—	3	—	4
14	Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	17	28	23	19
15	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	—	4	1
16	Diabetes	—	2	—	5
17	Vascular lesions of Nervous System	16	21	14	35
18	Coronary Disease, angina	32	27	37	13
19	Hypertension with Heart Disease	5	5	3	6
20	Other Heart Disease	18	40	28	35
21	Other Circulatory Disease	9	11	8	5
22	Influenza	—	—	8	10
23	Pneumonia	10	14	18	7
24	Bronchitis	18	6	18	9
25	Other Diseases of Respiratory System	5	1	1	1
26	Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	3	3	3	1
27	Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	—	—	1	1
28	Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	3	5	4
29	Hyperplasia of Prostate	7	—	8	—
30	Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	—	—	—	—
31	Congenital Malformation	—	3	1	1
32	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	22	18	22	16
33	Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	2	5	—
34	All other Accidents	6	1	3	5
35	Suicide	—	—	5	2
36	Homicide and Operations of War	1	—	—	—
Totals		196	207	237	201

BIRTH RATE, DEATH RATE AND ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1952

	Rate per 1,000 total population		Annual Death Rate per 1,000 Population								Rate per 1,000 live Births	
	Live-Births	Still-Births	All causes	Typhoid and Paratyphoid	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Tuberculosis	Influenza	Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	Pneumonia	Diarrhoea and En- teritis (under 2 yrs.)	Total Deaths under 1 year
England and Wales	15.3	0.35	11.3	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.24	0.04	0.01	0.47	1.1	27.6
160 County Borough and Great Towns, including London	16.9	0.43	12.1	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.28	0.04	0.01	0.52	1.3	31.2
160 Smaller Towns (estimated resident populations 25,000—50,000 at 1951 Census)	15.5	0.36	11.2	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.22	0.04	0.00	0.43	0.5	25.8
High Wycombe	15.89	0.46	9.69	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.15	0.00	0.00	0.58	0.00	15.13

Maternal Mortality

	Rates per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births		
	England and Wales	High Wycombe	
Sepsis of pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium	0.09
Abortion with toxæmia	0.02
Other toxæmias of pregnancy and the puerperium	0.21
Haemorrhage of pregnancy and childbirth	0.09
Abortion without mention of sepsis or toxæmia	0.04
Abortion with sepsis	0.07
Other complications of pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium	0.20
	0.00
	0.00
	0.00
	0.00
	0.00
	0.00
	0.00

SECTION II

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

Hospitals

The High Wycombe War Memorial Hospital is situated in the town. This is a general hospital of 100 beds with an annexe at Booker which has Geriatric, and Ear, Nose and Throat units comprising 46 beds. The Shrubbery Maternity Home of 20 beds is also in the Borough.

Infectious disease cases now go to Aylesbury Isolation Hospital or to the Isolation Hospitals at Maidenhead or Reading.

Professional Nursing in the Home

This is undertaken by the nurses stationed at the Grange, Amersham Hill—two of whom are engaged on general nursing work and three on midwifery. The Home Nursing Service is the responsibility of the County Council.

Ambulance Facilities

These are provided by the Bucks County Council with the aid of the local branch of the St. John Ambulance Brigade. The headquarters are at the Municipal Offices.

Clinics and Treatment Centres

(a) Administered by the Bucks County Council.

Ante-Natal and Post-Natal Clinic	Municipal Health Centre. Tuesdays, 10—11 a.m., Wednesdays, 2—3 p.m.
Women's Advisory Clinic	Municipal Health Centre. Mondays, 2—4 p.m.
Infant Welfare Centres	Municipal Health Centre, Dyke Meadow, Tuesdays and Fridays, 2—4 p.m. Methodist Schoolroom, Chapel Lane, Sands. Tuesdays, 2—4 p.m. Methodist Schoolroom, West Wycombe, 2nd and 4th Wednesdays, 2—4 p.m. Turner's Sports Pavilion, Totteridge, Thursdays, 2—4 p.m. St. Anne's Church Hall, Wycombe Marsh, Thursdays, 2—4 p.m. St. Birinus' Church Hall, Booker, Tuesdays, 2—4 p.m.

(b) Administered by the Regional Hospital Board.

Tuberculosis Clinic	War Memorial Hospital, Tuesdays, 9.30—1.00. 49a Frogmoor, Mondays, 10.00—12.00, Wednesdays, 10.00—1.00, Fridays, 10.00—1.00.
Venereal Diseases Clinic	49a Frogmoor, Mondays, 2—7 p.m., Thursdays, 4—7 p.m.

Dr. Korn is in attendance.

Laboratory Facilities

Facilities are provided by the Emergency Public Health Laboratory Service at Oxford.

SECTION III

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE SERVICES

The following Clinics are administered by the Bucks County Council :—

Sunlight Clinic—Children under school age.

Dental Clinic—Nursing and Expectant Mothers and Children under school age.

Infantile Mortality

The following table gives the infantile mortality rate per 1,000 live births for High Wycombe and England and Wales for the last ten years :—

	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952
England and Wales	49	46	46	43	41	34	32	29.8	29.6	27.6
High Wycombe	24.6	34.7	31.9	14.9	28.05	20.62	25.28	24.27	25.20	15.13

Infantile Mortality

Ten infants under the age of twelve months died during 1952, giving an infantile mortality rate of 15.13 per 1,000 live births.

SECTION IV

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

(a) Notifiable Diseases

The table on the following page gives the number of cases during the year.

(b) Immunisation against Diphtheria

The County Council are responsible for this service. Immunisation is carried out at all the Welfare Clinics and in the Schools.

(c) Scabies

All cases are now treated by private doctors. Cases are very few in number.

(d) Isolation Hospital

All cases of infectious disease needing hospital treatment are sent to Aylesbury, Reading or Maidenhead.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES TABLE FOR 1952

Disease	Total cases							
	Notified	0-1	1-2	3-4	5-9	10-14	15-24	25 and over
Meningococcal Meningitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Smallpox ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	33	—	2	3	26	1	1	—
Diphtheria	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Typhoid and Para-Typhoid	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	12	—	—	1	2	—	1	8
Erysipelas	6	—	—	—	1	—	—	5
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	7	—	1	2	1	—	2	1
Measles ...	34	1	5	10	15	2	1	—
Whooping Cough	6	—	1	2	3	—	—	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	42	1	—	—	—	—	11	30
Other Forms of Tuberculosis	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Food Poisoning ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
	145	3	9	18	48	3	17	47

Tuberculosis**SECTION V**

The tuberculosis service is administered by the Regional Hospital Board. The following table gives at a glance the position regarding tuberculosis in High Wycombe during 1952.

	Respiratory			Non-Respiratory			Grand Totals
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	
No. on Register on 1st January, 1952	152	118	270	41	40	81	351
No. first notified during 1952	22	20	42	1	1	2	44
No. of cases entered in Register other than by notification	12	12	24	—	1	1	25
No. removed from Register during 1952 :—							
(a) Died	4	2	6	—	—	—	6
(b) Removed from District	6	10	16	—	1	1	17
(c) De-Notified	7	7	14	3	1	4	18
No. remaining on Register 31/12/52	169	131	300	39	40	79	379

The number of new cases and the number of deaths notified during 1952 are given in full detail in the following table :—

Age Period	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10—15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—20	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
20—25	2	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35	5	5	1	—	1	—	—	—
35—45	2	4	—	1	1	—	—	—
45—55	3	3	—	—	2	—	—	—
55—65	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and over	2	1	—	—	—	2	—	—
Totals	22	20	1	1	4	2	—	—

SECTION VI**NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948. Section 47.**

It was found necessary to take action in the case of an old lady of 91 years who was almost blind and who was living alone. By order of the Magistrates she was removed to Part III Accommodation at Amersham Hospital.

SECTION VII
ANNUAL REPORT
of the
CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR
for the Year 1952

MUNICIPAL OFFICES,
HIGH WYCOMBE.

TO HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN
AND
COUNCILLORS OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGH WYCOMBE

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you my Annual Report for the year 1952.

It would appear that housing conditions in the Borough have eased during the past year and this seems to be confirmed by the fact that considerably fewer complaints have been received with regard to overcrowding. When complaints concerning overcrowding have been received, investigation has proved that these are often due to factors other than overcrowding. In connection with such cases it is generally found that the complainants are already on the housing list.

Slum Clearance has given rise to serious thought, preliminary preparations have been made, and schemes have been submitted to the Health Committee for their consideration in order that plans may go ahead directly the opportunity arises. The difficulties which exist and prevent the elimination of housing black spots are fully appreciated, but continued occupation of premises concerned reflects no credit on a Local Authority which in the past has set such a high standard of housing.

The support of the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee and the happy spirit of enthusiasm and co-operation which always exists amongst all members of the staff, coupled with the ready help and advice always available from Officials of other departments, have made light of many difficult situations.

I am,

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

W. A. SHARP,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Infectious Diseases

Visits paid	....	....	....	....	....	....	129
Re-visits	....	....	....	....	....	....	21

Disinfection of Rooms

Infectious Disease	....	....	....	....	....	19
Tuberculosis	....	....	....	....	....	10
Non-notifiable diseases	....	....	....	....	....	8

Disinfection—Bedding

		<i>Disinfected</i>	<i>Destroyed</i>
From Private Houses—			
No. of articles	....	50	31

Disinfection

The gas-fired multi-tubular boiler installed for raising steam for the disinfector has been used as required during the year. This system, although satisfactory, cannot be compared with previous arrangements. When the refuse destructor was working a constant supply of steam was available, but now considerable time is lost and expense incurred in the preparation needed to raise the necessary pressure.

It is, however, satisfactory that the apparatus is available to carry out disinfection in times of need.

Disinfestation

The number of houses affected with vermin and requiring disinfestation is small. Regular inspections are made for signs of vermin in the older types of house, because these are more often affected.

Eradication of the Bed Bug

		<i>No. of Houses</i>	<i>No. of Rooms</i>	<i>2nd treatments</i>
Private Houses	....	9	12	8
Council Houses	....	3	6	2

WATER SUPPLY

(a) Public Supply

Samples of water from the public supply have been submitted regularly for examination and results have shown it to be of very good quality.

Results

Twenty-one samples were submitted for bacteriological examination to the Public Health Laboratory, Oxford, and results showed them to be satisfactory.

Four samples of raw water direct from the public supply wells were submitted to a London Laboratory for chemical and bacteriological examination and results showed these to be satisfactory.

(b) Private Supply

Nine samples of water obtained from private supplies were submitted for bacteriological examination, the results of which were as follows :—

Eight samples—satisfactory.

One sample—not satisfactory. This sample showed evidence of coliform organisms.

As the water in the case of the unsatisfactory sample was not being used for drinking purposes, the only action taken was its removal from the list of Emergency Water Supplies.

STATISTICS

	<i>No. of houses piped supply</i>	<i>No. of houses by standpipe</i>	<i>Estimated population served</i>
Borough of High Wycombe Supplied by Corporation works to places outside the area of the Borough	11,608	10	44,000
....	1,390	28	6,000

MILK SUPPLY

**Milk (Special Designations) (Pasteurised and Sterilised)
Regulations 1949 and 1950**

**Milk (Special Designations) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949
and 1950**

“ PASTEURISED ” MILK

In a local dairy a High Temperature Short Time Plant for the pasteurisation of milk was brought into use in the early part of the year and proved entirely satisfactory. The plant output is approx. 2,500 gallons per day and records show that only one sample failed the prescribed tests, this being soon after the opening of the plant. This shows the efficiency of the plant and the good record of the management.

In my last report attention was drawn to the sale of Pasteurised Milk in the Borough, milk which had been pasteurised elsewhere and delivered in bulk to local distributors who bottled it. Samples of such milk more often failed the phosphatase test and it was more difficult to detect the reasons.

It will be noted the word “ Distributor ” is freely used and the explanation of such a term is indicative of the trend of the retailing of milk. In a number of instances milk is now treated and bottled by the wholesaler who delivers it to the distributor who in turn serves the customer. This practice may or may not be a retrograde step. It does, however, take away local supervision of bottling which is so desirable with such a commodity as milk. This method indicates the necessity for a second dairy with necessary plant to provide sufficient pasteurised milk for the Borough.

“ TUBERCULIN TESTED ” MILK

Demand for this type of milk is maintained and, although on sampling failures of the Methylene Blue Test have occurred, the number is not considered unsatisfactory.

The practice of pasteurising this milk is on the increase and is of great benefit. Suck milk seldom fails the prescribed tests.

DESIGNATED MILK SAMPLING

Results of sampling of designated milk during the year have shown that in the Borough the quality of the milk supply has improved. There was an increase in the number of samples taken, with a decrease in the number of failures.

Licences granted

Pasteuriser's Licence	....	....	....	....	....	1
Pasteurised (Dealer's) Licence	....	....	....	....	....	10
Sterilised (Dealer's) Licence	....	....	....	....	....	30
Tuberculin Tested (Dealer's) Licence	....	....	....	....	....	19
Supplementary—Tuberculin Tested—Licence	....	....	....	....	....	4
Supplementary—Pasteurised—Licence	....	....	....	....	....	3

Results of Samples taken

		<i>No. of Samples taken</i>	<i>Results</i>	
			<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Unsatisfactory</i>
Pasteurised	....	100	99	1
Pasteurised (School)		7	7	—
Tuberculin Tested		185	166	19
T.T./Pasteurised	....	42	42	—
Sterilised	....	9	9	—
		—	—	—
Total	....	343	323	20
		—	—	—

HOUSING AND SLUM CLEARANCE

With the possibility of improved conditions in the housing situation within the Borough, serious consideration has been given to the general condition of many houses around the centre of the town. A number of these are in such a condition that they cannot be rendered fit at a reasonable cost.

These houses are mostly occupied by tenants of long standing who are past middle age, who have no desire to move to other houses and who in most cases could not afford to pay the rent for a Council house. The question therefore arises as to what is to be done with the houses and what is the best way to rehouse the occupiers. The plain answer to both questions is “ slum clearance.”

However, under the provisions of the Housing Act, 1936, clearance of any area cannot be undertaken until the local authority is in a position to rehouse the people at a sympathetic rent. This of course would entail great financial strain on the resources of any local authority, unless extra aid in the form of grants is forthcoming from other sources. This Authority and in fact all local authorities will need to take these matters into consideration when slum clearance is being discussed.

The department and the Health Committee are fully aware of the position and are ready to commence work as soon as the word is given, but are in the position of knowing that this should be carried out for the benefit of the inhabitants of the town, but that it is not practicable under present conditions.

If slum clearance and re-development could be carried out as a combined effort, by doing so it would be possible to clear away houses in poor condition of low rateable value and thereby create sites needed by the town's development plan. The rehousing of these people not willing to leave the area in blocks of flats on sites provided by the clearance area may be the solution. Whatever course is decided upon, action is long overdue.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

Food Inspection

The administration of this Act forms no small part of the work of the department. It entails the inspection of all foods as to fitness and sampling as to quality. Inspections are generally combined in order to avoid over-lapping of visits and in addition to maintain constant supervision of all types of food.

Inspections of the market stalls, particularly those offering food or drugs for sale, are carried out regularly. It was necessary in two cases, after a verbal warning had been given to two stallholders the previous week, to seize stocks of tinned goods and have them condemned by a Magistrate. Proceedings will be instituted when the names and addresses of the persons concerned have been verified.

Cases of this description will have a marked effect on all traders who endeavour to sell goods of a sub-standard nature.

Sampling

Sampling of food and drugs has covered a very wide range of foods. It is considered unnecessary to take frequent samples of preparations of reputable manufacturers who usually have their own laboratories, although it would be unwise to neglect them totally.

No serious infringement of the Act has been found in the samples submitted, and such a record is indicative of the good class of food and drugs offered for sale within the Borough.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

The following samples were submitted to the Public Analyst with results as follows :—

	How Sampled		Result	
	Formal	Informal	Genuine	Not Genuine
Butter	3	—	3	—
Cake	1	—	1	—
Cheese	1	1	2	—
Christmas Pudding	4	—	4	—
Cocoa	1	—	1	—
Coffee	3	—	3	—
Cooking Fat	2	—	2	—
Cornflour	1	—	1	—
Cornish Pastie	1	—	1	—
Cough Mixture	1	—	1	—
Custard Powder	1	—	1	—
Dates	1	—	1	—
Disprin	1	—	1	—
Elasto Tablets	1	—	1	—
Fish Paste	2	—	2	—
Fruit (tinned)	—	6	—	6
Frying Oil	1	—	1	—
Gin	1	—	1	—
Glace Cherries	1	—	1	—
Glucose	1	—	1	—
Ground Almonds	1	—	1	—
Honey	2	—	2	—
Ice Cream	—	13	13	—
Iron Tonic	1	—	1	—
Jams	2	—	2	—
Jelly	8	—	7	1
Lemonade Powder	1	—	1	—
Margarine	1	—	1	—
Meringue Powder	1	—	1	—
Milk	31	50	80	1
Mincemeat	3	—	3	—
Mixed Peel	1	—	1	—
Nigroids	—	1	1	—
Pepper	1	—	1	—
Prunes	1	—	1	—
Pudding	1	—	1	—
Saccharin	1	—	1	—
Sauces	4	—	4	—
Sausages (Beef)	13	—	13	—
Sausagemeat (Beef)	1	—	1	—
Sausages (Pork)	1	—	1	—
Sausagemeat (Pork)	1	—	1	—
Squashes	1	—	1	—
Stuffing	1	—	1	—
Sugar	1	—	1	—
Sweets	7	—	7	—
Sweetmeat	1	—	1	—
Tea	3	—	3	—
Vinegar	5	—	5	—
White Pepper	3	—	3	—
Wines and Spirits	5	—	5	—
Total	131	71	194	8

LABORATORY TESTING OF MILK

Identical samples of all the 31 formal samples of milk were tested in the laboratory and as they were satisfactory no formal sample was sent to the Public Analyst.

Fifty informal samples were also tested in the laboratory. One was unsatisfactory as the fat content was below the required standard. Investigations were made and further samples taken were satisfactory.

GENERAL REPORT ON UNSATISFACTORY SAMPLES

Jelly

This sample was one of a consignment which was found to be old stock, which was subsequently withdrawn from sale.

Fruit

Six tins of fruit were sent to the Public Analyst for proof that the contents were unfit for food. They were from a number seized and later condemned by a Magistrate.

Legal proceedings are pending.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT—SECTION 14 (2)

During the year 16 registrations for the Storage of Ice Cream intended for Sale and for the Sale of Ice Cream were granted.

ICE CREAM SAMPLING

Thirteen samples of Ice Cream were submitted for fat content analysis. The results were as follows :—

1	....	5.11%	7	....	10.11%
2	....	7.19%	8	....	10.13%
3	....	7.36%	9	....	10.25%
4	....	7.41%	10	....	10.78%
5	....	8.40%	11	....	11.69%
6	....	8.67%	12	....	11.71%
13			....	12.13%	

Twenty samples of Ice Cream were submitted for bacteriological examination and the results were as follows :—

Provisional Grade 1	....	....	10 samples
Provisional Grade 2	....	....	7 samples
Provisional Grade 3	....	....	2 samples
Provisional Grade 4	....	....	1 sample
Iced Lollie— <i>B. Coli</i> absent—no grading.			

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION

Meat Inspection

Easton Street slaughterhouse is still not ideal as regards facilities for inspection and hanging of carcasses prior to distribution.

The co-operation of the Ministry of Food Staff and of the contractors has, however, made possible the production of meat in a condition about which very little complaint has been made. Present conditions, however, make the production of a hygienic article of reasonable quality extremely difficult and if deterioration does take place any complaint against the staffs would be unjustified.

Ministry of Food — Memo. 3 Meat

This is a memorandum regarding the methods and criteria of Meat Inspection recommended by the Ministry of Food for adoption by local authorities and their officers.

Part 1 gives general guidance for authorised officers, occupiers of slaughterhouses and slaughtermen.

Part 2 suggests that all animals should be subject to ante-mortem inspection before slaughter and recommends the segregation and separate slaughter of those showing signs of disease.

Part 3 sets out the method of inspection of cattle, pigs, horses, sheep and goats, and the various conditions and diseases which may be encountered, and the action to be taken in certain circumstances.

Laboratory Examination

Specimens from carcasses, organs and viscera, of animals which show signs of disease on ante-mortem examination should be submitted for laboratory examination whenever necessary after emergency slaughter.

As far as this authority is concerned no laboratory facilities exist at the slaughterhouse, but the examination of specimens has been carried out in the past by the Public Health Laboratory Service, Oxford, I should like to acknowledge with gratitude their co-operation.

In effect the memorandum will be of great assistance to your officers, but will be difficult to follow along the lines suggested until alterations and extensions are carried out and the necessary equipment is available. In the meantime improvisation will need to be made.

Slaughter of Animals

The total number of animals slaughtered at the Government Controlled Slaughterhouse during 1952 was :—

Oxen	....	....	....	....	....	1,869
Cows	....	....	....	....	....	286
Calves	....	....	....	....	....	1,309
Sheep	....	....	....	....	....	5,854
Pigs	....	....	....	....	....	34
Total						9,352

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed and inspected ...	1,869	286	1,309	5,854	34
Non-Tuberculosis :					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	7	4	19	2
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	918	48	4	610	2
Percentage of the number killed affected with diseases other than Tuberculosis ...	49.12	19.23	0.61	10.74	11.76
Tuberculosis only :					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	8	9	2	—	1
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	137	21	—	—	—
Percentage of the number killed affected with Tuber- culosis	7.80	10.49	0.15	—	2.94

The weight of condemned meat and offal for the year 1952 was as follows :—

Beef in Carcase	....	....	9,222 lbs.
Beef NOT in Carcase	....	....	4,940½ lbs.
Mutton in Carcase	....	....	697 lbs.
Mutton NOT in Carcase	....	....	169 lbs.
Veal in Carcase	....	....	202 lbs.
Veal NOT in Carcase	....	....	4 lbs.
Pork in Carcase	....	....	203 lbs.
Pork NOT in Carcase	....	....	93½ lbs.
Offal	....	....	17,870 lbs.
Total	....	....	33,401 lbs.

33,401 lbs. = 14 tons 18 cwts. 25 lbs.

Table Showing Condemned Organs of Animals

		Heads	Tongues	Lungs	Hearts	Skirts	Livers	Spleens	Tripes	Intestines	Messenteries	Kidneys	Udders	Tails	Totals
Cattle :															
Tuberculosis	...	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	9	17	213
Abscess	...	2	2	—	—	—	50	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	54
Actinomycosis	...	28	28	1	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	60
Cavernous Angioma	...	—	—	—	—	—	22	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	22
Cirrhosis	...	—	—	—	—	—	135	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	135
Cystic	...	—	—	9	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12
Distomum															
Hepaticum	...	—	—	1	—	—	647	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	648
Emaciation	...	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	52
Fevered	...	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	26
Moribund	...	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	13
Pericarditis															
Traumatic	...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Pericarditis	...	—	—	1	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Pleurisy	...	—	—	14	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	14
Pneumonia	...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Totals	...	54	54	51	26	25	884	25	24	24	24	24	16	24	1,255
Calves :															
Tuberculosis	...	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	—	—	22
Anaemia	...	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Cirrhosis	...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Emaciation	...	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	—	—	11
Fevered	...	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	—	—	11
Immature	...	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	—	—	11
Moribund	...	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	—	—	11
Pyæmia	...	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	—	—	11
Pneumonia	...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Totals	...	7	7	8	7	7	10	7	7	7	7	7	—	—	81
Pigs :															
Tuberculosis	...	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	—	—	11
Oedema	...	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	—	—	11
Swine Erysipelas	...	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	—	—	11
Totals	...	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	—	—	33
Sheep :															
Abscess	...	1	—	2	2	—	3	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	10
Anaemia	...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Found dead	...	1	1	1	1	—	1	1	—	1	1	1	—	—	9
Cystic	...	—	—	12	12	—	244	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	280
Distomum															
Hepaticum	...	—	—	—	—	—	33	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	33
Emaciation	...	10	10	10	10	—	10	10	—	10	10	10	—	—	90
Fevered	...	1	1	1	1	—	1	1	—	1	1	1	—	—	9
Moribund	...	2	2	2	2	—	2	2	—	2	2	2	—	—	18
Oedema	...	2	2	2	2	—	2	2	—	2	2	2	—	—	18
Pyæmia	...	1	1	1	1	—	1	1	—	1	1	1	—	—	9
Pneumonia	...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Strongylosis	...	—	—	78	78	—	228	78	—	—	—	—	—	—	462
Totals	...	18	17	110	109	—	526	109	—	17	17	17	—	—	940

OTHER FOODSTUFFS CONDEMNED

Baby Food, 5 tins	Milk, 118 tins
Bacon, 21 lbs. 6 ozs.	Mincemeat, 1 jar
Beans, 45 tins	Paste, 7 jars
Butter, 2½ lbs.	Peas, 236 tins
Cake, 7½ lbs.	Pickles, 8 jars
Cakes, 16	Pudding, 1 tin
Cheese, 54 boxes	Rabbit, 224 lbs.
Chicken, 3 carcasses	Rabbit, 2 carcasses
Chicken Cutlets, 40 lbs.	Salad, 1 jar
Chicken Minced, 1 tin	Sauce, 8 bottles
Custard Powder, 6 pkts.	Sausages, 334 lbs.
Fish, 87 tins	Soups, 30 tins
Fish (Wet), 54¾ stone	Sweets, 88 tins
Flour, 7 pkts.	Sweets, 112 lbs.
Fruit, 1,885 tins	Teacakes, 14
Fruit, 79 lbs.	Tomatoes, 128 tins
Jam, 9 tins	Turkey, 1 carcase
Meat, 1,365 tins	Vegetables, 24 tins

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

Inspection of factories has been carried out during the year as follows :—

Statistics

Number of inspections	....	....	....	....	386
Number of defects found	....	....	....	....	27
Number of complaints received from H.M.					
Inspector of Factories	....	....	....	....	4
Number of Fire Certificates issued	....	....	....	....	9

BOROUGH MORTUARY

The number of bodies deposited in the Mortuary during the year has shown a marked increase, and the number of post mortems carried out has also increased.

This service, supervised by the department, ensures a twenty-four hour supervision by the Mortuary attendant.

Number of bodies deposited during the year	....	77
Number of post mortems held	....	75

PESTS ACT, 1950

The work of rodent control has been carried out with marked success by your rodent operator. No major infestation has been reported. All complaints received immediate attention, and in spite of the large amount of poison used, no harm has come to any domestic animal.

The sewers, open spaces, refuse tips, etc., are treated periodically, and all agreements with business premises have been carried out without complaint.

Statistics

Agreements : Current	....	....	....	....	12
Total complaints received (each complaint requiring a minimum of 6 visits for treatment)	....	....			297
Business premises	....	....	....	....	47
Private houses	....	....	....	....	229
Factories	....	....	....	....	16
Not justified	....	....	....	....	9

Treatment was carried out on the Borough Sewer system in January and June. Infestation was found to be slight. 31 visits were made to the Refuse Tip, and on the last occasion no evidence of rodent infestation was found.

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951

This Act, which superseded the Rag Flock Acts, 1911-1912, and which has been in operation since the latter part of 1951, brought under supervision most upholstery filling materials which are in daily use in the Borough.

The Act provides for the licensing of premises where filling materials are manufactured or stored for resale, and for registration of premises where materials are used. Publicity was given in the Press, through trade organisations and by visits of your Inspectors in order that occupiers of such premises should be made fully aware of all the requirements. In the main the response by persons concerned was good, but many small business men were loath to register or license their premises. Many of these persons were, however, known, and after a visit and a letter of warning applications were made.

Registration of premises is very necessary, as the Act does not allow sampling of materials from unregistered premises, and no check on the cleanliness of materials used would be possible. The only step in such cases is for legal proceedings to be taken against the occupier for not having his premises registered.

A technique of sampling is laid down in the Regulations. This differs from that previously used. In practice the system must be strictly adhered to in order that a fair and just result can be obtained by the analysis. Many queries have been raised by the Analyst and myself on certain problems which have arisen and in consequence certain revisions may be made.

Here it is proper to tender my appreciation to the Prescribed Analyst of the area for the great help and advice he has given in many difficult situations which has made light of the administration of an Act which is full of both legal and practical snags.

SAMPLING

The quality of the materials used in factories within the Borough has in the main been high, there being no failure with the exception of cotton felt and woollen mixture felt.

Statistics

Licences to Manufacture to 31.12.52	1
Licences to Store Rag Flock for resale to 31.12.52	6
Total Number of Registrations to 31.12.52	109
Details of samples of materials taken and the results :—	

	<i>Samples</i>	<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Not Satisfactory</i>
Cotton Felt	9	6	3
Cotton Felt Mixture	1	—	1
Feathers	1	1	—
Fibre	3	3	—
Hair	1	1	—
Reconditioned Hair	2	2	—
Rag Flock	9	9	—
Woollen Mixture Felt	1	—	1
Wool Felt	1	1	—

Total = 28 samples.

Unsatisfactory Samples

Cotton Felt. With reference to the 3 samples of Cotton Felt which did not satisfy the prescribed tests, proceedings have been taken or are pending in two cases, and in the other case the material was invoiced as new cotton felt, but in reality was a mixture of cotton and rayon with some woven fibres intermixed and in effect was not cotton felt. A further sample of the material was submitted for analysis as cotton felt mixture and this sample failed the prescribed test. Proceedings were authorised by the Health Committee, but on the Town Clerk's advice were not taken.

The manufacturers were acquainted with the result of the analysis of the felt and with the fact that it was a mixture of materials, with the result that it was withdrawn from use. No other example of its kind has been found in use within the Borough.

Proceedings were also instituted in the case of woollen mixture felt which failed the prescribed tests.

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1952

Acts, Orders and Regulations under which Proceedings were instituted	Default or Offence	Result	Fines
Rag Flock and Other Fillings Materials Act, 1951	Selling Cotton Felt which failed to satisfy the prescribed tests	Conviction	Fined £10 Costs— £3 18s. 0d.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948—SECTION 50

No application was received for assistance under the provisions of the above Act and Section.

EXPLOSIVES ACT, 1875

This Act provides for the registration of premises where explosives, e.g. fireworks, etc., are stored.

Number of registrations for the period ending 30th
September, 1952 97

LETTERS sent out during the year :—

Factories	55	Milk (Special Designated) ...	422
Food Premises	37	Shops Act	10
Housing Act	32	Slaughterhouse	11
Infectious Disease	12	Smoke Abatement	4
Milk Shops and Dairies	3	Squatters' Camp	4
Overcrowding	13	Mortuary	22
Public Health Act	196	Slaughtering Licences	2
Pests Act	6	Pet Animals	23
Rag Flock	110	Game Dealers	11
Restaurants, Cafes	22	Bakehouses	2
Rivers, Watercourses	2	Animals and Birds	1
Food and Drugs	35	Drainage	1
Water Supply	40	Housing Conditions	3
Ice Cream... ..	23	Miscellaneous Visits	71

Total Number of Letters sent—1,173.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Table showing the number of inspections made during the year :—

Accumulations, Ashes, etc.	58
Animals and Birds	15
Bakehouses	21
Butchers' Shops	225
Drains cleared	78
Drainage inspected	98
Drainage tested	22
Entertainment Houses	20
Factories	386
Factory (Canteens)	23
Food premises, grocery shops, etc.	286
Food Preparing premises	32

Fish Shops and Fried Fish Premises	64
Greengrocers, etc.	23
Housing Act (routine inspections)	198
Ice Cream premises	41
Infectious disease	129
Interviews	670
Licensed premises	43
Markets	203
Materials—visits for issue of permits	6
Milk Shops and Dairies	227
Overcrowding	50
Police Court Visits	6
Public Health Act (premises visited)	939
Rats and Mice (Inspectors' visits)	57
Rats and Mice (Rodent Operator's visits)	1,747
Rats and Mice (Rodent Operator's visits on contracts)	989
Rats and Mice (Rodent Operator's visits on sewers and block infestation)	124
Rag Flock	184
Restaurants, Cafes, Snack Bars	103
Rivers, watercourses, ditches and ponds	80
Sampling visits Food and Drugs	212
Sampling visits Water Supplies	35
Sampling visits Ice Cream	20
Sampling visits Milk (bacteriological samples)	352
Schools	2
Shops Act	274
Slaughterhouse for Meat Inspection	590
Smoke Abatement	44
Stables and Piggeries	45
Stalls and Hawkers' Carts	951
Hutted Camp	9
Tents, Vans and Sheds	37
Verminous Premises	37
Explosives Act	190
Miscellaneous visits	257
Total	10,202

FREER & HAYTER
Printers
3 Easton Street, High Wycombe